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# Child Support Enforcement Services Available for Non-Recipients of AFDC

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Illinois Department of Public Aid

# CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT SERVICES AVAILABLE

## Child Support Enforcement Services for Non-Recipients of AFDC

The Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA) through the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement provides the same Child Support Enforcement services at no cost to all dependent children whether or not they receive grant payments. Services are available to those not receiving AFDC, upon making application for the Title IV-D Non-AFDC Program. This brochure explains available services and provides a brief summary of each. It further explains the manner in which support payments are collected and distributed and summarizes the responsibilities of those who receive Non-AFDC services.

## Location

If the Responsible Relative's whereabouts are unknown, an attempt will be made to locate both a residence and/or employer address.

## Establishment of Parentage

If your child(ren) was born when you were not married to the child(ren)'s natural father and the court has not declared a person to be the father, the Department will provide assistance in obtaining a determination of parentage and an order for support. This action may be taken until the child(ren) reaches age eighteen.

## Establishment/Enforcement - Child Support Orders

Appropriate action will be taken, when possible, to establish and/or enforce a support order against adjudicated fathers, parties who are married but separated or divorced, parties who were not married at the time the child(ren) was born, and for parties who are married and support is sought from one or both parents.

**Enforcement Methods Include**

- Withholding of money from appropriate income sources which the responsible relative receives;

- Requiring bond to guarantee payments;

- Placing a lien against property the relative may own;

- Reporting unpaid amounts to credit bureaus;

- Reporting unpaid amounts to the Internal Revenue Service, the Comptroller of the State of Illinois and the Department of Employment Security for intercept of monies due the responsible relative.

**Medical Support**

The Department will seek health/hospitalization insurance coverage for the dependent(s) if it is available to the responsible relative at reasonable or no cost. If you receive, or have applied for, Medical Assistance, this coverage will be sought automatically. If you do not receive Medical Assistance, this coverage will be sought only with your consent.

**Distribution of Monies**

**Payments Made by Responsible Relatives**

Support payments will be made payable through the Illinois Title IV-D Agency who will then direct the payment to you within fourteen days from the date of receipt. For some counties, payments may be forwarded directly to you by the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

If you have previously received AFDC and the responsible relative was ordered to pay current support and to make payments on an arrearage owed the Department, money collected will be

forwarded to you or kept by the IDPA in the order indicated below:

**Order for Current Support and an Arrearage Owed IDPA**

| | Forwarded to You | Kept by IDPA |
|---|---|---|
| Current | 1 | |
| Unpaid Current | 2 | |
| Order for Arrearage | | 3 |
| Unpaid Arrears | | 4 |

If you previously received AFDC, and an order for support was later entered that addressed monies owed both to you and to the IDPA, money paid by the responsible relative will be sent to you or kept by the IDPA in the order shown in the following chart.

| | Forwarded to You | Kept by IDPA |
|---|---|---|
| Current | 1 | |
| Unpaid current | 2 | |
| Court ordered arrearage to you | 3 | |
| Unpaid ordered arrearage to you | 4 | |
| Court ordered arrearage to IDPA | | 5 |
| Unpaid ordered arrearage to IDPA | | 6 |

**Amounts Collected through Special Offset Programs (Internal Revenue Service or State Comptroller)**

These collections will be retained by the Department, provided to you, or returned to the responsible relative. You will be notified of any money which is collected through these special programs. If money is obtained it will first be used to pay back the State of Illinois for any

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support payments which the absent parent failed to make to the Department of Public Aid, for any period(s)of time during which your family received AFDC or foster care payments. If any amount remains and is owed to you, it will automatically be forwarded. If there is any additional money remaining, it will be returned to the responsible relative.

You may be required to return a part or all of the amount sent to you if the Internal Revenue Service later determines that it belongs to someone else who filed a joint tax return with the responsible relative. Because of the time allowed for filing an amended return, a request for repayment may be made for up to six years after receipt of the money.

**Your Responsibilities**

- Produce any information necessary to assist the Department in providing the above services.

- Appear as notified for any required interviews or court appearances.

- Keep the Department advised at all times of current address by notification to the address below.

- Notify the Department if an attorney, of your own choosing, is obtained to represent you in child support matters or if you undertake to represent yourself.

- Affirm that you are the custodian of the child (ren) for whom you seek support services and that you are a resident of the State of Illinois.

- Authorize the Illinois Title IV-D Agency to explore, pursue or utilize all sources of information legally available to it in support of its investigation and to choose the appropriate course of legal action.

Child Support Enforcement services will continue to be provided to you until one of the following occurs:

- You fail/refuse to meet your responsibilities as described above;
- There is no longer an obligation for current support and/or no amount owed to you;
- You notify the Department, in writing, at the address below, that you no longer want child support enforcement services.

Once your case is closed, you will not be able to receive any monies which might be collected from any State or Federal tax refund received of the parent(s) of your child(ren), nor will you be able to collect a portion of the parent's unemployment benefits in the event she/he is unemployed.

All correspondence and inquiries concerning tax protests, amnesty protests, enforcement actions which concern another state, or address changes outside of Cook County must be reported to the Illinois Department of Public Aid, Bureau of Child Support Enforcement, P.O. Box 19405, Springfield, IL 62794-9405. Address changes within Cook County must be reported to the Clerk of the Court of Cook County, Room 13530, 32 West Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60601-3403.

All other correspondence and inquiries may be directed to the Illinois Department of Public Aid, Bureau of Public Inquiry, 100 South Grand Avenue East, Springfield, IL 62762.

**If You Need Help Now, Call:**

**1-800-447-4278**

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